

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3860

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 6511

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EAGR, ECON, PL

SUBJECT: GIEREK SPEAKS TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

REF: WARSAW A-324

1. SUMMARY: PZPR FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK'S REPORT TO THE IV TH PLENUM OF THE PZPR CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 10 REFLECTS THE CAUTIOUS APPROACH ADOPTED BY THE POLISH AUTHORITIES FOLLOWING THE PRICE RISE DISTURBANCES OF JUNE 24-25. GIEREK REPEATED ESSENTIALLY THE POINTS HE MADE AT MIELEC ON SEPTEMBER 3, (REFAIR) ALTHOUGH WITH MORE DETAIL AND REDUCED SCOPE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MAJOR THEMES STRESSED BY THE FIRST SECRETARY SICE DECEMBER 1975 WERE AGAIN VOICED IN THE IV TH PLENUM SPEECH WHICH HE ENTITLED "CONCERNING THE FULL REALIZATION
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OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE 7TH CONGRESS IN THE FIELD OF

DEVELOPING AGRICULTURE". THESE ARE: THE NEED TO VITALIZE AGRICULTURE BY MAKING EFFECTIVE USE OF ALL AVAILABLE LAND, PRODUCE, AND BY-PRODUCTS; THE IMPORTANCE OF CHANGING THE WAGE AND PRICE STRUCTURE TO ACHIEVE MARKET EQUILIBRIUM; THE VALUE OF THE CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE AND THE REQUIREMENT OF CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY AND ATTENTION TO WORK QUALITY.

3. GIEREK CHARACTERIZED SOCIALIZED AGRICULTURE AS THE FASTEST GROWING AND MOST PRODUCTIVE BRANCH OF FARMING. HE DEVOTED MOST OF HIS ATTENTION, HOWEVER, TO THE INDIVIDUAL FARMER. THE FARMER WHO MAKES GOOD USE OF THE LAND, OF TECHNOLOGY, OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPECIALIZE, HE SAID, WILL BE GUARANTEED GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AND GOOD PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT IF HE FULFILLS HIS DUTIES TOWARDS THE STATE, FOR EXAMPLE, BY ENTERING INTO LONG-TERM CONTRACTS FOR SELLING PRODUCE TO THE STATE. GIEREK MADE SPECIAL REFERENCE TO RURAL DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES CALLING FOR MORE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ATTENTION TO THE FLOW OF PEOPLE TO THE CITIES. HE CALLED FOR MORE GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN PROVIDING PENSIONS FOR OLD PEOPLE, AND WIDER EDUCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL INVESTMENTS IN ORDER TO CREATE BETTER RURAL WORKING CONDITIONS FOR YOUTH.

4. GIEREK WAS PARTICULARLY CAUTIOUS IN DISCUSSING LONG-TERM MARKET POLICY. HE CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF FIVE COMMISSIONS, HEADED BY POLITBIURO MEMBERS, TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM "INTENSIVELY BUT WITHOUT HASTE." THE COMMISSIONS ARE TO REVIEW: (A) FOOD PRICE POLICY, INCLUDING THE JULY GOVERNMENT PROPOSITION THAT MEAT PRICES BE INCREASED BY 35 PERCENT; (B) MEANS FOR ACTIVATING MARKET PRODUCTION; (C) POSSIBILITIES FOR SPEEDING FARM DEVELOPMENT AND THE FOOD PRODUCTION; (D) "ECONOMIZATION" MEASURES; (E) THE RESULTS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PRESENT HOUSING PROGRAM.

5. GIEREK EMPHASIZED THAT THE COMMISSIONS WOULD SEEK GUIDANCE FROM GOVERNMENT AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERTS, AS WELL AS FROM PUBLIC DISCUSSION. HE SAID THAT THE COMMISSIONS MIGHT WELL MEET FOR A YEAR OR LONGER. IN THE MEANTIME, HE NOTED, MAINTENANCE OF THE PRESENT PRICE STRUCTURE WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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RESULT IN MARKET SHORTAGES, DESPITE FULL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO INSURE SUPPLY. HE IMPLIED THAT THERE WILL BE PARTICULAR PROBLEMS WITH MEAT, SUGAR, AND FISH. HE ADDED THAT THE PARTY EXPECTED WORKING PEOPLE TO FACE THE SITUATION WITH UNDERSTANDING AND GOOD CIVIC DISCIPLINE.

6. COMMENT: EXCEPT FOR CALLING FOR THE CREATION OF FIVE COMMISSIONS WHICH HE HAD HERALDED IN HIS SEPTEMBER 3 SPEECH

AT MIELEC, GIEREK BROKE LITTLE NEW GROUND AT THE IV TH
PLENUM. IN A SENSE, THE CREATION OF THE COMMISSIONS
REFLECTS THE INABILITY OF THE NORMAL PZPR AND GOVERNMENT
BODIES, TO DEVELOP A PRICE STRUCTURE WHICH WOULD BE
ECONOMICALLY VIABLE AND POLITICALLY
ACCEPTABLE. THE CREATION OF THE COMMISSIONS MAY ALSO PRESAGE
EVEN MORE DELAY IN EFFECTING PRICE INCREASES FOR FOOD AT
THE RETAIL LEVEL.
BROWN

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